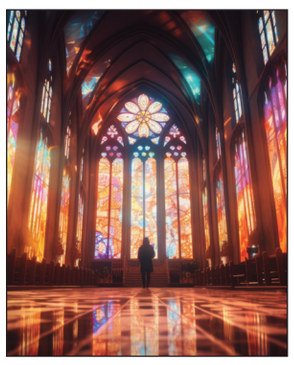
Faith & Inspiration

The Injury of Intellect and Ignorance



By Vincent V. Marshburn

The friction between supposed scientific certainty and theistic spiritual faith has persisted throughout the history of humankind.

In many ways, this purported conflict and rivalry is a reflection of antipathy and hostility between philosophies which choose to either acknowledge and honor the God who created the universe or to reject and refuse recognition of such an interpretation of reality. It is often framed, from both sides, as a disparity between the intellectual and the ignorant.

From ancient times even until now, this repudiation of God's supremacy and sovereignty would often manifest as diversion of worship towards perceptions of alternative sources of divine — or at least supernatural — power and authority. This can be observed in preoccupations with idolatry, occultism, and other modalities of mystic conviction. Such habits and attitudes exhibit evidence of humanity's ongoing efforts to avoid giving the true God his due.

Any urge to discover or devise explanations for what we experience in the world around us can readily be perceived as motivated by any number of assumptions and intentions. These can include an apparent need or desire to exert some measure of control over our environment — inasmuch as any sense of understanding can impart such an impression of control. Whether this control is derived through presumed manipulation of metaphysical phenomena or through application of mechanical and naturalistic methodologies, human beings are prone to pursue comprehension independent of God's provision of wisdom.

Many believers harmonize the study of the natural and observable world with the divine mandate to subdue and supervise God's creation (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:6-8). Within such a worldview, it is not considered unusual or even undesirable to seek information, significance, and even governance concerning the natural processes which occur by God's own design. From early in the Biblical narrative and throughout the Scriptures, we discern descriptions of human activity geared towards or resulting from endeavors of agriculture, industry, and science.

Many examples abound that reflect awareness and insight on various subjects, such as: metallurgy and mining (Genesis 4:22; Job 28:1–11); astronomy (Job 38:31-33); biology (Leviticus 17:11); botany and zoology (Proverbs 30:25–28; Matthew 6:28); engineering (Genesis 4:17, 6:15, 11:1-4); textiles and chemistry (Exodus 28:1-5, 30:34-38); and even sanitation (Numbers 19; Leviticus 11-15) and hydrology (Ecclesiastes 1:7; Job 36:27-28).

The pursuit and practice of science itself does not necessarily preclude affirmation or even concession of spiritual sensibility and truth. It also does not obligate denunciation or disavowal of doctrines of faith. Unfortunately, religion and science have often had an adversarial relationship. History is replete with instances of persecution by institutionalized religion against individuals or groups who proposed theories which appeared contrary to orthodoxy. Hypatia of Alexandria, Galileo Galilei, and Copernicus are among such targets of ecclesiastical censure.

Likewise, it is quite typical for those immersed in fields of science to hold views regarding theistic sentiments that range from merely indifferent or unsympathetic to suspicious or incredulous to specifically contentious or resentful. Some would consider the works of well-known researchers such as Charles Darwin, Marie Curie, Carl Sagan, Stephen Hawking, and Richard Dawkins to be particularly agnostic, atheistic, or even anti-theistic.

The tension between these seemingly diametric and discordant perspectives is real and can present opportunities to contemplate whether reasonable and healthy balance between them can ever be achieved.

In an episode of the "Star Trek: Deep Space 9" television series, Keiko O'Brien, botanist and wife of the titular space station's chief of operations Miles O'Brien, is serving as the primary school teacher for the variously aged children of personnel assigned to positions aboard the station. These include progeny from different species and cultures, including inhabitants of the nearby planet of Bajor.

Bajorans generally hold very religious beliefs regarding the stable space-time wormhole in proximity to the station and planet. They regard it as a "celestial temple" and the trans-dimensional aliens who reside within it as divine "prophets." Unsurprisingly, as a human and naturalistic scientist, Keiko does not subscribe to these unique spiritual interpretations. Rather, she attempts to teach her class about the wormhole with a focus on its astrophysical nature.

During this particular lesson, an entourage of Bajoran religious disciples is touring the station and decides to visit the classroom to observe the scholastic activities. This group is led by an ambitious acolyte named Winn Adami. As Winn hears Keiko's secular explanation about the essence and structure of the wormhole, the Bajoran interjects and objects to the entirely materialistic quality of the instruction.

Later, Keiko has a conversation with station commander Benjamin Sisko and Major Kira Nerys, the station's Bajoran liaison officer. Keiko defends her position as ardently as possible, while Kira expresses some sympathy with Winn's concerns. Sisko does his best to mediate.

KEIKO: You can't possibly believe teaching the facts about the wormhole amounts to blasphemy?

KIRA: I think some revisions in the school curriculum might be appropriate. You teach a lot of Bajoran children.

KEIKO: I'm not going to let a Bajoran spiritual leader dictate what can or can't be taught in my classroom.

KIRA: Then maybe we need two schools on the station. One for the Bajoran children, another for the Federation.

...

SISKO: Nobody's saying that there can't be spiritual teaching on this station, Major, but can't it be in addition to what's taught in Mrs. O'Brien's classroom?

KIRA: But if she's teaching a fundamentally different philosophy —

KEIKO: I'm not teaching any philosophy. What I'm trying to teach is pure science.

KIRA: Some might say pure science, taught without a spiritual context, IS a philosophy, Mrs. O'Brien.

It is later discovered that Winn's highly vocal protests may have been primarily performative and possibly part of a conspiracy to manipulate individuals and events within the Bajoran religious community for her specific benefit. The question of harmony — or at least equilibrium — between science and religion appears to remain open for debate.

For believers, the majesty and wonder of creation are intended to reflect the majesty and wonder of the Creator. There is no injunction in Scripture against studying God's handiwork. In fact, we are encouraged to respect, admire, and learn from what God has fashioned, within the context and framework of reverence of and relationship with God himself (Psalm 104; Psalm 111:2; Proverbs 30:18-19, 30:25-28; Romans 1:20). He designed our minds to crave and absorb knowledge and understanding and our hearts and souls to yearn for commitment and fulfillment.

When human intelligence renounces divine counsel to arrive at entirely temporal or carnal conclusions, it neglects significant aspects of human existence and reality. When spiritual devotion becomes so narrow and obsessive that it denies any opportunity to inquire and investigate, it depreciates the sacred gifts of imagination and illumination. The injury of intellect and ignorance is the diminishing of any aspect of our formational symmetry that leads to us failing to become as holistically human as God intended.

The Keys are Hiring, CFK Career Connections Returns

Local companies at CFK Career Connections getting to know potential employees.

Photo courtesy of College of the Florida Keys

By College of the Florida Keys

The College of the Florida Keys (CFK) is hosting a free networking and career advancement event on Wednesday, April 1 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. at the Tennessee Williams Theatre on CFK's Key West Campus.

CFK welcomes current and future job seekers, career-driven individuals, and the professionally curious, employed or not.

CFK Career Connections is more than a free job fair and professional networking event. It's a relaxed, no pressure occasion to explore opportunities, get assistance, or even help others. It's open to everyone: current students, alumni, and job seekers throughout the Keys community.

Employers in Monroe County are actively competing for talented, committed people, and CFK Career Connections offers the opportunity for participants to get a good feel of the current job landscape and expand their professional network for current and future job searches.

CFK Career Connections is not just for graduating students or people between jobs. It is designed for the full spectrum of Keys' professionals from the student who wants to turn their degree into a career to a CFK alumnus thinking about the next step or a community member who is great at what they do and is ready for more.

Participants are encouraged to come dressed professionally and bring copies of their résumé.

"CFK Career Connections is about more than matching résumés to job listings," said Nicole Gerrard, CFK Executive Director of Student Success Services.

"It's about building the kind of professional relationships that last over time throughout one's career journey."

Space for employers is still available but limited. Employers interested in participating can request a space by emailing Nicole Gerrard, CFK Executive Director of Student Success Services, by March 27, 2026.

CFK Career Connections is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit www.cfk.edu/events/ or contact Nicole Gerrard, nicole.gerrard@cfk.edu.

Miami-Dade Seeks Help in Providing Meals for Young People This Summer

123RF

By David Volz

Miami-Dade County is working to provide nutritious meals to young people throughout the community this summer.

The Miami-Dade County Community Services Department (CSD) Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is partnering with local organizations to provide free meals to youth 18 and under during the summer months. County leaders are currently recruiting sites with summer programs to establish partnerships for distributing these meals in local communities.

Free meals will be available in June, July, and August 2026 at sites across Miami-Dade County. CSD is ensuring that all operations follow strict health and safety protocols.

The SFSP is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and overseen by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The program provides nutritionally balanced meals to children during summer recess, when school breakfasts and lunches are not available.

Participating sites will offer both hot and cold meals for on-site consumption, prepared using fresh and locally grown foods while maintaining full compliance with health and safety standards.

The program will run from June 8 through August 12, 2026. Nutritious meals will be provided to all youth 18 and younger, regardless of income, race, color, sex, disability, age, or national origin.